

**Written Testimony of Sue Harkness of
Conversations for a Green Connecticut,
Before the Select Committee on Children
March 2, 2010**

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5314, An Act Concerning Child Safe
Products and Banning Cadmium in Children's Products**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Urban, and honorable members of the Select Committee on Children,

My name is Sue Harkness and I am a resident of Ashford and a member of Conversations for a Green CT, a group that is concerned about environmental issues and brings more awareness of these issues to the public through programs and activities.

I am writing because I **strongly support HB 5314 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products and Banning Cadmium in Children's Products**. I am concerned about this issue as all folks should be if they value their health and the health of everybody else, especially young children. Most of us do not have the knowledge necessary to know everything about these dangerous chemicals; I was shocked to find out that there was cadmium in children's jewelry! Why is there no regulatory oversight of these products?

Many studies have linked toxins to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's as well as asthma, infertility and learning disabilities. Young children and developing fetuses are especially vulnerable; exposure to even a small amount can affect a child for life. Connecticut has been a national leader by phasing out lead, mercury and BPA but we cannot continue to play toxic chemical "whac-a-mole" with our children's health. Please pass **HB 5314** to establish a comprehensive approach to phase out of chemicals of high concern from children's products. Parents should not have to wonder whether common household products, like bedding, toys or food can linings, are damaging their children's futures!

I would like to thank the Select Committee on Children for their leadership in this area. Please make passing **HB 5314** a priority this legislative session.

Very truly yours,

Sue Elizabeth Harkness
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